

Virginia Latino Advisory Board

Tuesday, October 11, 2022

11:00am-3:00pm

Patrick Henry Building - East Reading Room

1111 E. Broad St. Richmond, VA 23219



VIRGINIA
LATINO
ADVISORY
BOARD

Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Avendano	Jonathan		Guzmán	C. Alexander		Revilla	Emilio
Berry	Paul		Kelly	Jennifer		Sanchezconcha	Lyons
Chase	Jo-Ann		Kline-Gabel	Karina		Soto	Rodrigo
Clavijo	Wendy		Medina	Yahusef		Vega	Juan
De Silva	Joshua		Metzger	Ana		Watkins	Walewska
Espinoza	Juan		Patterson	Diana		Williams	Cecilia
Gamez	Astrid		Rimola	Sergio		Zelaya	Eduardo

***attended remotely via Microsoft Teams*

Administration's staff present: Suzanne Holland, Board Administrator

11:00 am. Welcome and Introductory Remarks - Hon. Kay Cole James, Secretary of the Commonwealth

Secretary James welcomed VLAB members to the Patrick Henry Building. She reviewed the Hispanic Heritage Month proclamation issued by the Governor and took questions briefly from members. Vice Chair Joshua DeSilva asked Secretary James about board meeting security given recent experiences of other advisory boards with meeting interruptions. Secretary James encouraged members to communicate with her office about ongoing concerns.

11:10 am. - Committee Breakout Sessions - Committee Chairs

Business, Civic Engagement & Social Justice, Education & Workforce, Health, and Housing

12:00 pm. Welcome, Call Meeting to Order, Meeting Overview - Lyons Sanchezconcha

Greetings to guests, time to go around the room for all present to introduce themselves

12:05 pm. May/June Meeting Minutes Approval, August Meeting Agenda Adoption -

Approval of Minutes May 2022:

Board member, Jo-Ann Chase, made a motion to approve, seconded by board member, Rodrigo Soto. Motion approved. Vote: All in Favor = 19, Opposed = 0

Approval of Minutes from June 2022:

Board member, Alex Guzman, made a motion to approve, seconded by board member, Astrid Gamez. Motion approved. Vote: All in Favor = 19, Opposed = 0

Approval of Agenda August 2022:

Board member, Joann Chase, made a motion to approve, seconded by board member, Sergio Rimola. Board Chair, Lyons Sanchezconcha, will remove two presentations from the agenda, the Administrative Update and the Listening Session Recap, due to board members not in attendance.

Motion approved. Vote: All in Favor = 18, Opposed = 0

12:24 pm. Public Comment -

The Chair asked for comments from the public. No speakers came forward to present.

12:25 pm Administrative Update - Suzanne Holland

Board administrator, Ms. Holland, commented on the excellent attendance of the past two Board meetings.

- Submit travel reimbursements for payments, submit at W9 (required for payment)
- Ms. Holland reviewed the rules issued by the FOIA Council
 - Every other committee meeting needs to be in person
 - At least 3 members makes a meeting that needs to be advertised on the Commonwealth Calendar
 - 25% of annual Board meetings can be virtual (up to 2 virtual meetings per year)
 - This applies separately to full Board meetings and committee meetings
 - Ms. Holland made recommendations for distributing the 2022 report to various stakeholders
 - 2023 meeting dates will be finalized in the next two weeks
 - Strategic planning
 - Planning ahead to 2023 Annual Report
 - Strategic planning will be the focus of the December 2022 meeting

Member Jo Ann Chase moved that the Board approve the VLAB Policy for All-Virtual Public Meetings suggested by the FOIA Council. Member Diana Patterson seconded the motion. Vote: All in Favor = 19, Opposed = 0; Discussion included a recommendation from Vice Chair Joshua DeSilva that VLAB write a letter sharing our experience of the new FOIA rules with the FOIA Council in one year.

12:54 pm Listening Session Recap - Lyons Sanchezconcha and Emilio Revilla

Chair Lyons Sanchezconcha spoke about the listening session, which was held at the recording space for a local Latino radio station. Member Emilio Revilla shared about concerns heard at the listening session including access to education and resources for parents. Daily discrimination regarding financial services, legal services, and immigration issues affect Latino community members. There was some discussion also of crime in the Richmond area and collaboration with the local police department.

Workforce development was another focus. Obstacles to entry into certain professions due to licensing and permitting issues were a part of this discussion.

Member Karina Kline-Gabel asked about expanding how we use the community listening sessions. Vice Chair Joshua DeSilva recommended sending a copy of the notes divided out by topic area so that committees can follow up on community suggestions.

1:02 pm. Chair's Report - Lyons Sanchezconcha

The Chair shared that he would like to have more time for discussion of new business during each full board meeting. He previewed the speakers that will share later today. Chair Sanchezconcha also noted his desire to empower committee chairs to do more work independently in between meetings. Finally, the Chair congratulated the Board on being the only advisory board to submit a formal report in 2022. He discussed the meeting between VLAB leadership and Governor Youngkin. Board Administrator Suzanne Holland shared that the purpose of the meeting with the Governor is to get feedback on the annual report including feasibility of recommendations.

1:15 pm. Guest Speakers - Elvira De La Cruz, CEO, Latinos in Virginia Empowerment Center

Ms. De La Cruz spoke about her agency's work with Spanish-speaking survivors of violence, particularly intimate partner violence. Her agency is proud to have recently launched a 24/7 24 hours a day hotline in Spanish for survivors. Hampton Roads was particularly in need of support.

Vice Chair Joshua DeSilva asked Ms. De La Cruz about LVEC's experience of working with Virginia state agencies to secure grant funding.

Michel Zajur, President and CEO, Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Zajur shared about the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's history in the state and advocacy for Latino business owners. He mentioned that a lot of statewide Hispanic chambers of commerce have state funding but Virginia has historically not followed this model.

Vice Chair Joshua DeSilva asked about legislative priorities that the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce has this year. Mr. Zajur shared that VHCC is nonpartisan but would be very supportive of legislation to grant access to licensing and permitting to DACA recipients.

Mr. Zajur asked the Board to consider a recommendation that the Department of Labor do an analysis of where state grant money is going, and specifically what percentage is going to Latino owned businesses.

2:00 pm Break

2:20 p.m. Committee Reports

Business-Diana Patterson, Chair

Ms. Patterson described the Business Committee's work on license applications and permits for Latino applicants.

Vice Chair Joshua DeSilva recommended looking to Arkansas and other states to have a starting place on legislative language that would allow Virginians to apply for professional licenses regardless of immigration status. Member Rodrigo Soto mentioned advocacy issues around IRS policies and procedures for ITIN and EIN renewal. Ms. Patterson noted that the Business Committee has begun discussion about advocacy around immigration policy.

Education-Yahusef Medina, Chair

Mr. Medina described the committee's meeting today and discussed a 2022 recommendation about Hispanic Serving Institutions. He reviewed recent research that states that predominantly white colleges and universities are applying for HSI status without having programming and support for Latino students. The committee is wondering about putting in place policies to ensure that HSI is meaningful and ensures adequate support for students.

Health-Sergio Rimola, Chair

Dr. Rimola reviewed the committee meeting that the health committee conducted before today's meeting. The committee will invite someone from the Council on Aging to attend the December meeting. The committee would like to focus a recommendation on COVID-19. There is a desire to revive efforts to involve trusted community messengers in getting the word out about booster shots. Issues around long COVID are a part of this focus. Finally, the committee would like to invite the DBHDS Commissioner to discuss assessing the utilization of CSB resources by Latino Virginians.

Housing-Waleska Watkins, Chair (Alex Guzman, Member, reporting)

Chair Waleska Watkins was not able to be present at this meeting. Therefore, Member Alex Guzman reported for the committee. Mr. Guzman discussed recommendations about homeless youth. Another pressing issue that is a carryover from the 2022 recommendations is about grants regarding housing conditions and legal aid funding. Moving forward, the committee would like to focus on housing conditions more generally. Pandemic protections are expiring which is leading to advocacy needs. Latino homeownership is another major focus of the committee.

2:42 pm Board Discussion and New Business - Joshua DeSilva

The Chair and Vice Chair invited open discussion from members about priorities moving forward. Member Yahusef Medina asked what the process is to advocate for the report's priorities.

Vice Chair Joshua DeSilva shared about a recent experience advocating for VLAB's 2021 recommendation regarding mental health professional development for licensed providers. The Virginia Boards of Psychology, Social Work, and Counseling will require continuing education units in working with diverse populations moving forward.

3:00 pm Closing Remarks & Announcements - Lyons Sanchezconcha

The Chair thanked Board members for their service and dedication. The next meeting will be December 16, 2022 in Northern Virginia. The Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce has offered space for the meeting.

Member Alex Guzman moved to adjourn the meeting and Member Rodrigo Soto seconded. The vote was as follows: Vote: All in Favor = 19, Opposed = 0

Meeting Adjourned: 2:50pm